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There is a difference between energy efficiency and energy conservation.

Energy efficiency is saving energy by improving the ability of equipment to operate while consuming less energy. Examples of this are having a car that gets 40 MPG instead of 15 MPG, or buying an energy efficient air conditioner that can cut an energy bill from \$200 per month to \$150 per month.

Energy conservation is when we save energy by improving our ability to use that equipment only when we need. Examples of this are when we rideshare so that we keep five vehicles parked and use one 40 MPG vehicle for six folks, or when we use a programmable thermostat to cut back energy use when no one is around.

On base we strive to be energy efficient by installing energy efficient lighting systems in the buildings, controls to efficiently operate the heating and air conditioning systems and designing energy efficient buildings that use less energy than the older buildings. Essentially everything we build, install, or renovate will be designed to use less energy.

Energy conservation on base occurs when we, the tenants of the base, become aware of the excess amount of energy being used and do something about it. For instance, when we turn off lights in unoccupied areas, reset thermostats at the end of the day, shut off radios and computer monitors when they are not being used.

Energy conservation doesn't mean sacrifice or doing without; it means being responsible for energy use as a way of life. When you see energy being wasted, just simply make the small effort to stop the waste. That's all it takes.

Where energy efficiency can save thousands of dollars, adding our efforts at energy conservation can multiply that savings to tens of thousands of dollars if we each do our part.

For more information on energy awareness or to offer any suggestions on energy conservation, contact Ed Saleem at hubert.saleem.ctr@us.af.mil.